

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ECE, CSCE

SUBJECT: ECE 33RD SESSION: MALTESE MEDITERRANEAN DRAFT

REFS: A) STATE 87519; B) GENEVA 4977

1. REF A NOTES THAT LANGUAGE IN PARA 7 OF MALTESE MEDITERRANEAN DRAFT WHICH WOULD COMMIT ECE TO "CONTRIBUTE FULLY AND ACTIVELY TO THE PREPARATIONS OF THE VALLETTA CSCE EXPERTS MEETING", WILL NEED TO BE NEGOTIATED DOWN. THAT PARA ALSO CONTAINS LANGUAGE EXPRESSING ECE DECISION "TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT MEETING." ECE, OF COURSE, HAS NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POWER TO DECIDE ON PARTICIPATION WITHOUT AN INVITATION FROM CSCE STATES. NO SUCH INVITATION WAS ISSUED AT BELGRADE MEETING WHICH DETERMINED ONLY THAT NON-PARTICIPATING MEDITERRANEAN STATES COULD BE INVITED TO "CONTRIBUTE" TO EXPERTS MEETING. THIS LANGUAGE IS ALSO POTENTIALLY PREJUDICIAL TO OUR VIEW OF NATURE OF VALLETTA MEETING.

2. IN CSCE TERMS THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "PARTICIPATION", WHICH IS LIMITED TO THE 35 PARTICIPATING STATES WHO NEGOTIATED AND SIGNED THE FINAL ACT, AND "CONTRIBUTIONS", WHICH CAN BE INVITED BY THE 35 FROM NON-PARTICIPATING STATES OR FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UN

OR OTHER BODIES. ONE OF BASIC MALTESE GOALS IN CSCE IS TO GAIN A STATUS APPROACHING FULL PARTICIPATION FOR NON-PARTICIPATING STATES OF MEDITERRANEAN'S SOUTHERN LITTORAL. MALTESE MADE IT CLEAR AT BELGRADE THAT THEY INTEND TO TRY TO ACHIEVE A SUBSTANTIAL ROLE FOR SOUTHERN LITTORAL STATE EXPERTS AT VALLETTA. U.S. AND OTHER ALLIES HAVE HELD OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THOSE EXPERTS MIGHT BE CALLED UPON TO MAKE MORE FREQUENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO EXPERTS MEETING ON ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL SUBJECTS THAN AT PREVIOUS CSCE POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS BUT THAT FORMULA WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN THE SAME, NAMELY THAT CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE INVITED BY THE PARTICIPATING STATES. QUESTION OF AN ECE ROLE IN VALLETTA WAS NOT CONSIDERED AT BELGRADE, BUT OUR ASSUMPTION IS THAT IT WOULD BE WITHIN COMPETENCE OF VALLETTA MEETING TO DECIDE TO INVITE AN ECE CONTRIBUTION IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ECE WAS INVITED TO BELGRADE. LANGUAGE IN MALTESE DRAFT MAY BE AN EFFORT TO BLUR DISTINCTION BETWEEN PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION AND TO ESTABLISH PRECEDENT THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO MALTESE WHEN LARGER QUESTION OF ROLE OF SOUTHERN LITTORAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATES IS TAKEN UP AT VALLETTA NEXT YEAR.

3. USDEL SHOULD ACCORDINGLY SEEK TO ENSURE THAT ANY LANGUAGE ON ECE ROLE AT VALLETTA EXPERTS MEETING IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR STANDARD CSCE POSITION, PERHAPS ALONG LINES OF "... AND TO MAKE SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS AS ARE REQUESTED BY THE PARTICIPANTS TO THAT MEETING WHICH WILL BE CONVENED..."

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